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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Provides \$3 Million for Needed Los Lunas
Infrastructure Improvements**

(Santa Fe, NM) – New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Administrative Service Division Director Rick Martinez and Village of Los Lunas Mayor Louis F. Huning will formally execute a \$3,018,866 funding agreement Thursday June 24. This funding will help pay for needed improvements to the village's storm water system.

The formal signing of the agreement will take place in the village council chambers located at 660 Main Street, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2004. The public is invited to attend.

The agreement will enable the village, which is located in Valencia County, to begin the surface water drainage improvements in the Luna Hills neighborhood. The existing surface water drainage facilities in the neighborhood were constructed prior to annexation by the village, and do not meet village drainage standards. Many of the existing facilities have also deteriorated significantly over the years since initial construction.

The village has proposed the construction of new drainage facilities to control storm water runoff and drainage. With the installation of storm drain pipes and catch basins, expansion and improvements to the existing retention ponds and other improvements approved by NMED, the village will better protect public health and ensure compliance with environmental regulations. To help speed the construction of this project, NMED has worked closely with the village in providing technical assistance, administrative support, and in streamlining federal and state requirements.

The funding is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a program administered by NMED for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This program provides low cost loans to New Mexico communities and helps protect water quality throughout the State. Through this program, the Village of Los Lunas qualifies for a 2% loan that will be amortized over a twenty-year term.

For more information, contact the NMED-Construction Programs Bureau at (505) 827-2808, or <http://www/cpb/cwsrf.html> or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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